新魔王ダンテ

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永井豪©

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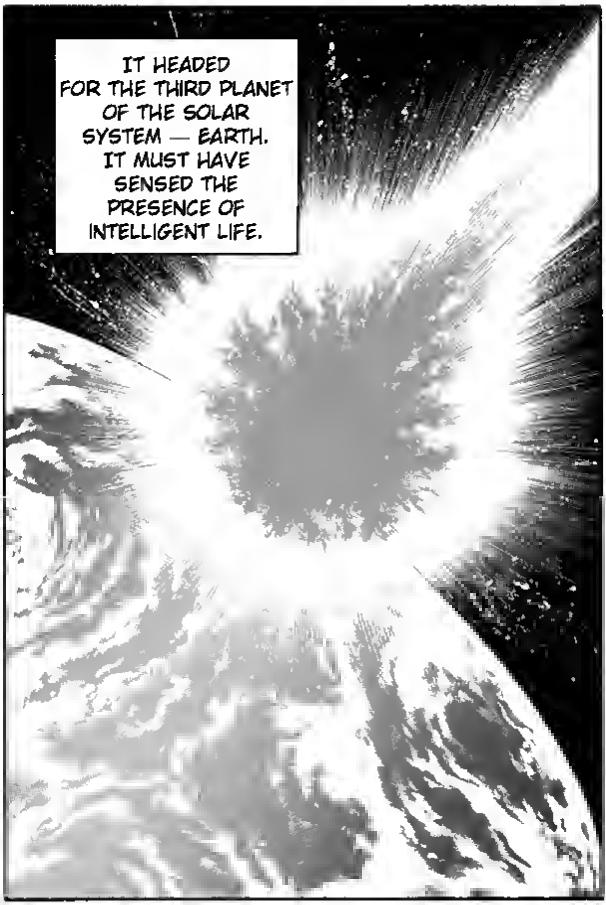
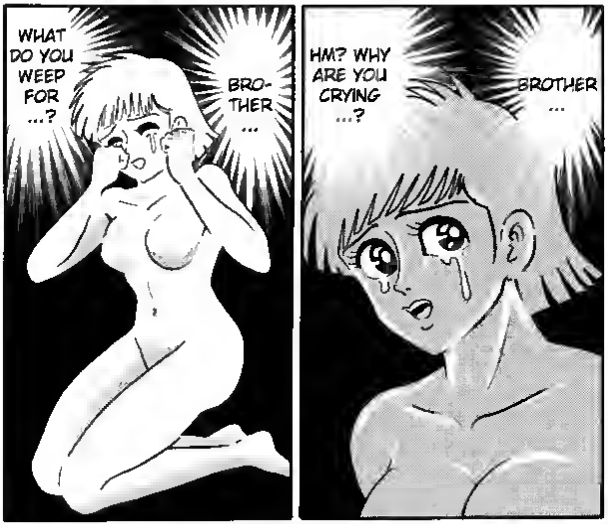
IT FLEW THROUGH OUTER SPACE, FREELY ALTERING ITS COURSE AS IF IT HAD A WILL OF ITS OWN.
IT WAS A BURNING BLUE BALL OF FIRE, FLYING FROM THE FARTHEST REACHES OF SPACE...


IT HEADED FOR THE THIRD PLANET OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM — EARTH. IT MUST HAVE SENSED THE PRESENCE OF INTELLIGENT LIFE.


WHAT DO YOU WEEP FOR ...?
BRO-THER ...
HM? WHY ARE YOU CRYING ...?
BROTHER ...

YOUR BODY IS ALL SOFT AND DRIPPING ...
HM? WHAT'S WRONG...YOU LOOK SO STRANGE...

FARE-
WELL,
BROTHER.
FARWELL
...
WHAT? YOU'RE
MELTING AWAY!
MELTING
AWAY...

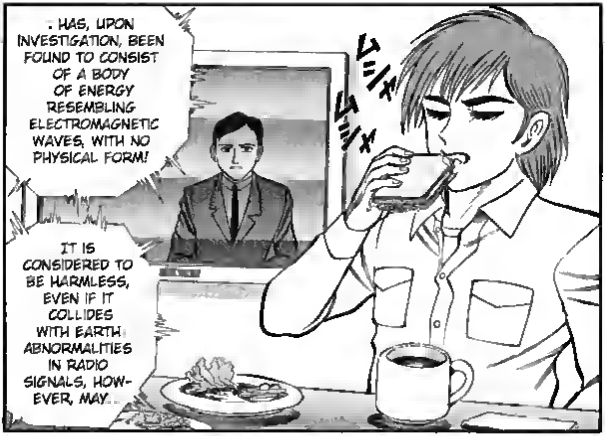
WHAT A
DREAM
THAT WAS.
A...
DREAM
?
PHEW

!

MAN... THERE'S
NO WAY SOME-
ONE THAT FULL
OF ENERGY'S
GOING TO
MELT.

SORRY!
GUESS I
OVER-
SLEPT!
OH
YOU'RE
AWFUL,
BROTHER!
OU SAID
YOU'D WAKE
ME UP! I'M
GONNA BE
LATE!

THE RECENTLY-DISCOVERED METEORITE ON COURSE FOR EARTH


. HAS, UPON INVESTIGATION, BEEN FOUND TO CONSIST OF A BODY OF ENERGY RESEMBLING ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES, WITH NO PHYSICAL FORM!
IT IS CONSIDERED TO BE HARMLESS, EVEN IF IT COLLIDES WITH EARTH. ABNORMALITIES IN RADIO SIGNALS, HOWEVER, MAY...
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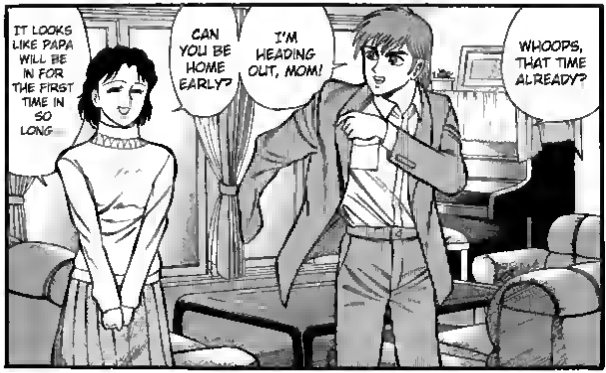
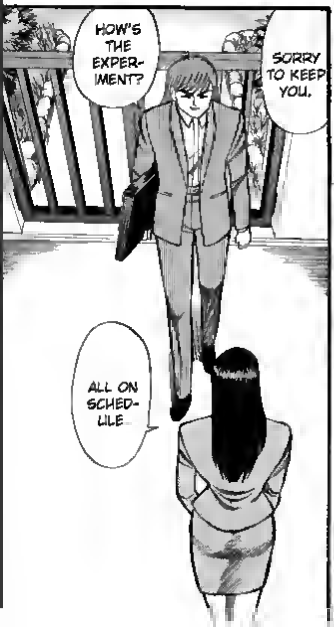
I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF EATING THAT!
AHH! HEY!
I'M GONNA BE LATE!
AT LEAST EAT A PROPER BREAKFAST, OR YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO THINK STRAIGHT!
SORRY, BRO! I'M OFF!

I'LL BE FINE. I'M NOT A BRAIN-WORKER OR A GENIUS LIKE YOU.
ALL I HAVE TO THINK OF TODAY IS HOW TO ENJOY MY DATE!
SEE YA!
DON'T GET MIXED UP WITH ANY BAD GUYS!
AND DON'T STAY OUT TOO LATE!
YEAH, YEAH.
AH!
IS YOUR BROTHER IN?
I'M HERE TO PICK HIM UP
BRO! YOUR RIDE'S HERE!
THE USUAL ONE!

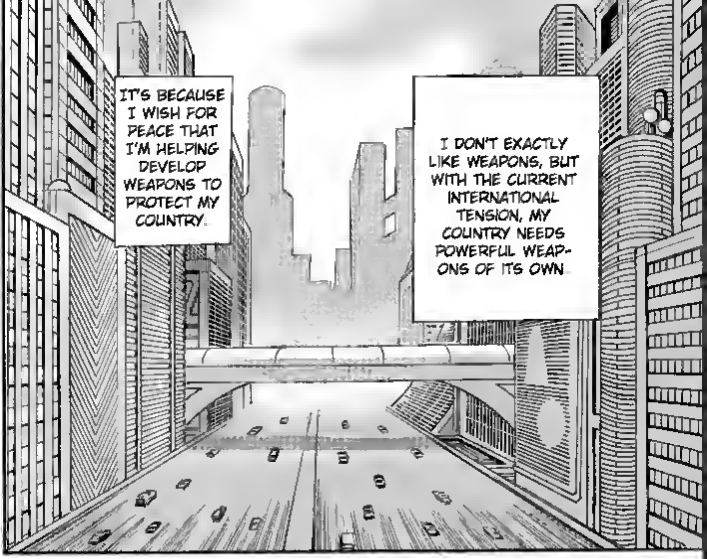

IT LOOKS LIKE PAPA WILL BE IN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SO LONG...
CAN YOU BE HOME EARLY?
I'M HEADING OUT, MOM!
WHOOPS, THAT TIME ALREADY?


HOW'S THE EXPER-IMENT?
SORRY TO KEEP YOU.
ALL ON SCHED-ULE.

WELL, FINE BY ME!
: REALLY? I HEAR THE DEFENSE AGENCY'S EVEN BUSIER THAN US. DAD SHOULDN'T BE PUSHING HIMSELF AT HIS AGE...
I'LL BE HOME EARLY.

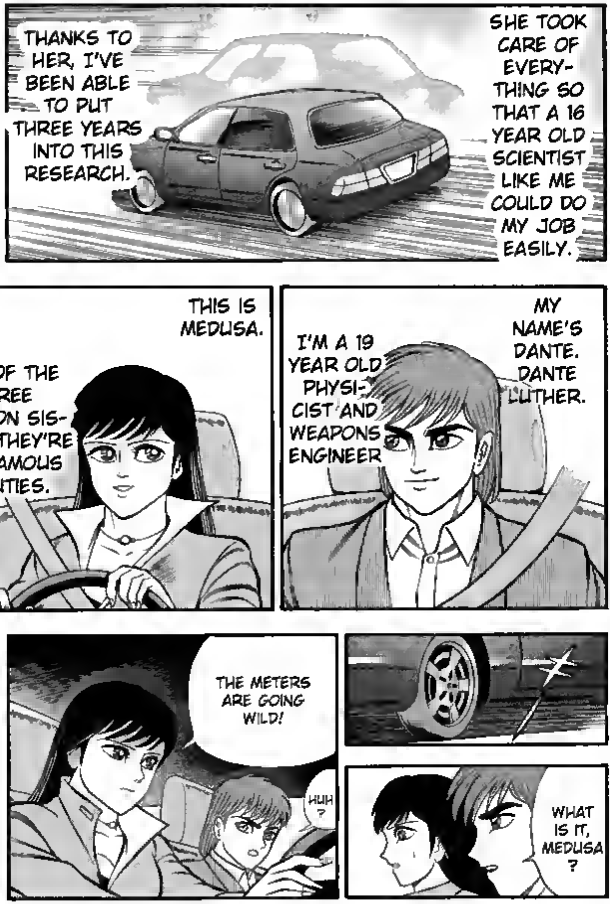
I'LL FINISH FIRST.
YES...

DON'T CALL ME DOCTOR. IT'S EMBARR-ASSING!
OH NO; YOU'RE A GENIUS DOCTOR, THE PRIDE OF OUR NATION. PLEASE, GET IN
ALL THAT REMAINS IS YOUR FINAL CHECK, DOCTOR.
THAT'S RIGHT. I FINISHED GRADUATE SCHOOL AT JUST 13. AT 16, I STARTED DEVELOPING SPECIAL HIGH-TECH WEAPONS. PEOPLE CALL ME A GENIUS, EVEN MY KID SISTER...


I DON'T EXACTLY LIKE WEAPONS, BUT WITH THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL TENSION, MY COUNTRY NEEDS POWERFUL WEAPONS OF ITS OWN.
IT'S BECAUSE I WISH FOR PEACE THAT I'M HELPING DEVELOP WEAPONS TO PROTECT MY COUNTRY.

IS MY ASSISTANT. A STUNNING BEAUTY THREE YEARS MY SENIOR...

THE ONE GOOD THING ABOUT THE STATE LABORATORY I WORK AT...


THANKS TO HER, I'VE BEEN ABLE TO PUT THREE YEARS INTO THIS RESEARCH.
SHE TOOK CARE OF EVERY-THING SO THAT A 16 YEAR OLD SCIENTIST LIKE ME COULD DO MY JOB EASILY.
THIS IS MEDUSA.
ONE OF THE THREE GORGON SIS-TERS. THEY'RE ALL FAMOUS BEAUTIES.
MY NAME'S DANTE. DANTE LUTHER.
I'M A 19 YEAR OLD PHYSI-CIST AND WEAPONS ENGINEER
THE METERS ARE GOING WILD!
HUH?
WHAT IS IT, MEDUSA?

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THAT'S NO ORDINARY THUNDER CLOUD!
COULD IT BE AN ELECTRO-MAGNETIC ANOMALY!?
OR IS IT THE METEOR!?
NOT JUST OUR OWN
THE OTHER CARS ARE STOPPED, TOO.
WHAT'S GOING ON? THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE.
AH!
DANTE! LOOK AT THE SKY!

IT MOVES LIKE IT HAS A WILL OF ITS OWN!
IT'S LIKE A BALL OF BLUE LIGHT, EMITTING LIGHTNING FLASHES AS IT DESCENDS!

THE METEOR WAS REPORTED TO BE A MASS OF ENERGY WITH NO SUBSTANCE!
BUT WHAT'S THAT BLUE LIGHT INSIDE IT!?
HE SKY IS BLACK AS NIGHT!
THAT MUST BE WHAT IT IS!

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オウン
I am God!
God, ruler of the universe! People of Earth, obey me!

YOU WISH TO BEHOLD THE POWER OF GOD!?
IT'S TELEPATHY! I CAN HEAR IT IN MY HEAD!
!
YOU LOOK LIKE AN EVIL DEMON!
GOD!? YOU'RE A MONSTER!
PROVE THAT YOU'RE GOD!!

RUN! IT'S NOT SAFE!
HUR-RY!

ACCORDING TO THE OBSERVATORY, IT'S FORMLESS ENERGY!
IT'S CHANGED ITS SHAPE AGAIN! JUST WHAT IS IT!?

A CONSCIOUS MASS OF ENERGY!
SENTIENT ENERGY!
BUT IT HAS A WILL!
THEY MUST HAVE BEEN RIGHT!
AN EVIL WILL!
AND A MONSTER WITH TREMENDOUS PSYCHIC POWER!
LOOK! IT'S SPLITTING INTO PARTS!

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PERHAPS IT ORIGINATED AS AN AGGREGATION OF THE SOULS OF INTELLIGENT LIFE FORMS LIKE HUMANS!
WE'LL ALL BE KILLED! RUUUN!
IT'S A MONS-TER!

THEY LOST THEIR BODIES . AND THEIR MINDS WANDERED THROUGH SPACE ALL ALONE!
YES!
AND THEY MUST HAVE BEEN VIO-LENT, WARLIKE CREATURES!
I BET YOU'RE RIGHT! THEY'RE THE SPIRITS OF LIFE FORMS THAT DESTROYED THEIR OWN PLANET WITH WAR!